(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper implementation of financial powers by the States/Union Territories; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure proper implementation of Panchayati Raj System in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Since the enactment of Constitution Seventy-third (Amendment) Act, 1992, the States/UTs have developed financial powers upon Panchayats in varying degrees.

(c) and (d) The Central Government have been requesting the States/UTs to devolve more powers to Panchayats through high level meetings and through correspondence with the Chief Ministers, State Ministers/State Secretaries in charge of Panchayati Raj. At a Conference of the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held in July, 2001 at New Delhi, it was resolved that the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations would devolve powers upon Panchayats in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule. In the All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan held in April, 2002 at New Delhi it was *inter-alia* resolved that powers be devolved on Panchayats by 31-12-2002 the matter is being pursued with the State Government.

Beneficiaries of NOAPS

†151. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are implementing National Old Age Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the benefits being provided under this Scheme; and

(c) State-wise number of beneficiaries as on date ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), which formed part of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and was administered as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme till the financial year, 2001-2002, has been transferred to the State Plan with effect from the financial year, 2002-2003. As per the guidelines of the National Old Age Pension Scheme, an amount of Rs. 75/- per month was provided to the destitute persons aged 65 years or above.

(c) A Statement showing State-wise number of beneficiaries reported by the States/Union Territories for the year 2001-2002 as on date is attached.

Statement

State-wise number of beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) as on the date

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total Beneficiaries Reported (in Nos.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	466000
2.	Bihar	445201
3.	Chhatisgarh	140576
4.	Goa	3270
5.	Gujarat	47110
6.	Haryana	50769
7.	Himachal Pradesh	23291
8.	J & K	16413
9.	Jharkhand	156112
10.	Karnataka	183265

1	2	3
11.	Kerala	141543
12.	Madhya Pradesh	442537
13.	Maharashtra	388389
14.	Orissa	492366
15.	Punjab	45265
16.	Rajasthan	101460
17.	Tamilnadu	314362
18.	Uttar Pradesh	944758
19.	Uttaranchal	45002
20.	West Bengal	331224
21.	A & N Islands	NR
22.	Chandigarh	2714
23.	D & N Haveli	NR
24.	Daman & Diu	241
25.	NCT Delhi	NR
26.	Lakshadweep	15
27.	Pondicherry	4180
	SUB-TOTAL	4786063

1	2	3
	North Eastern States	
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	1631
29.	Assam	289241
30.	Manipur	27354
31..	Meghalaya	30904
32.	Mizoram	10523
33.	Nagaland	8106
34.	Sikkim	10104
35.	Tripura	60227
	SUB-TOTAL	438090
	GRAND-TOTAL	5224153

NR - Not Reported

Provision of safe drinking water to all households

152. SHRI C. RAMCHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the households still suffer from the lack of access to safe drinking water in the country in both rural and urban areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the bigger States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan are below the national average;

(c) if so, the details of the household having access to safe drinking water in the country, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government have any time-bound programme to provide access to safe drinking water to all households?